

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /067 W

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R 291150Z OCT 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4189

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0845

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ET

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE KIDNAPPING OF EAST EUROPEAN DOCTORS

REF: ADDIS ABABA 11338 (NOTAL)

1. WE HAVE REPORT OF UNCERTAIN RELIABILITY THAT TWO EAST EUROPEAN DOCTORS WITH MILITARY HOSPITAL IN ASMARA WERE KIDNAPPED BY INSURGENTS DURING NIGHT OF OCTOBER 6-7, WHEN PROLONGED FIREFIGHT TOOK PLACE ABOUT 2000 YARDS FROM CONGEN COMPOUND. FIREFIGHT, WHICH LASTED ABOUT TWO HOURS, PUNCTUATED WITH FREQUENT ROCKET AND MORTAR EXPLOSIONS, WAS CENTERED AT 35TH BATTALION COMPOUND WHERE A MILITARY HOSPITAL IS CO-LOCATED. REPORTEDLY, PART OF INSURGENT GROUP INFILTRATED INTO CENTER OF COMPOUND AND WHEN REMAINING GUERRILLAS ATTACKED PERIMETERS, 35TH BATTALION TROOPERS RUSHING TO DEFENSE POSITIONS WERE CAUGHT IN CROSSFIRE. WHILE APPARENTLY VERY FEW WERE ACTUALLY KILLED DURING EXTENSIVE FIREFIGHT, UPSHOT OF ATTACK WAS THEFT OF HOSPITAL MEDICAL SUPPLIES, RELEASE OF SOME PRISONERS, AND, NOW REPORTEDLY, THE KIDNAPPING OF TWO CAUCASIAN DOCTORS, PERHAPS BULGARIAN.

2. COMMENT: REPORT IS DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE. IT HARD TO CONCEIVE THAT PRESENCE OF TWO EAST EUROPEAN DOCTORS WITH SECOND DIVISION UNIT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN GENERALLY KNOWN BEFORE.

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Message Attributes

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